



ARE YOU READY
FOR SOME
GODBALL?

MARVEL REMEMBERS



CARLOS PACHECO 1961-2022

"My friend Carlos Pacheco was a sweetheart of a guy who loved comics, the Marvel comics that he read as a child most of all. He brought an enthusiasm to his work that went beyond the drive of the professional — he was truly invested in the characters and their fictitious lives. His work combined the dynamics of John Byrne with the realism of Neal Adams, creating a synthesis that captured the essence of American super hero comics — a form that was exotic to Carlos as he first read the translated stories but which he absorbed and came to embody like a native. A citizen of Spain, the Marvel Universe was his true home."

— TOM BREVOORT

"Carlos was a dream collaborator who made every story better with his ideas, his brilliant storytelling and his beautiful art. But more, he was warmhearted, enthusiastic and a wonderful person. I was thrilled to work with him but happier still to have him as a friend. He will be enormously missed."

— KURT BUSIEK

HULK

HULK HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE A DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION. HIS ALTER EGO, BRUCE BANNER, HAS SPLIT THE HULK INTO THREE DISTINCT PARTS: THE HULK'S BODY HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A STARSHIP. BANNER'S PSYCHE PILOTS IT FROM WITHIN THE HULK'S MIND. AND THE HULK'S PSYCHE FUELS THE STARSHIP WITH HIS ANGER.

AFTER TRAVELING FAR INTO THE DEEP REACHES OF SPACE, STARSHIP HULK CAME ACROSS A PLANET COATED IN GAMMA WITH A POPULATION OF HULKS. THEIR LEADER, MONOLITH, PROMISED HULK A PLACE HE COULD FINALLY CALL HOME--A CIVILIZATION FULL OF CREATURES WHO UNDERSTOOD HIM AND WHO WOULD NOT COWER IN FEAR AT HIS STRENGTH. AND THE FACT THAT THESE INHABITANTS WORSHIP THE HULK AS A GOD DOESN'T HURT EITHER.

THE DEMONS OF BRUCE BANNER'S PAST ARE STILL LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND, NEVER MIND THE CONCERNING BLACK GROWTHS THAT MONOLITH'S SCIENTISTS FOUND IN A SCAN OF THE HULK'S BRAIN...BUT TODAY, HULK'S WORSHIPPERS GET TO CHALLENGE THEIR GOD TO THEIR FAVORITE SPORT. LET THE GAME OF GODBALL BEGIN!

"HULK PLANET"

..... *part three*

RYAN OTTLEY *writer, penciler, inker*
MARTE GRACIA *color artist*
VC's CORY PETIT *letterer*

RYAN OTTLEY and MARTE GRACIA *cover artists*
DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON and MIKE SPICER; JUNI BA;
NICK BRADSHAW and JIM CHARALAMPIDIS;
JONAH LOBE *variant cover artists*
DONNY CATES *special thanks*

ANTHONY GAMBINO *production design* | **MICHELLE MARCHESE** *assistant editor*
WIL MOSS *editor* | **C.B. CEBULSKI** *editor in chief*
HULK *created by* **STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY**



WE WELCOME HULK, OUR NEWEST MEMBER, TO THE OFFICIAL *GODBALL* GAMES. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.

WE HOPE TO WITNESS YOUR STRENGTH FIRSTHAND, AS IT'S SOMETHING WE'VE BEEN TOLD IS UNSTOPPABLE AND QUITE THE FORCE TO BEHOLD!



BUT...YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY 3-DAY-OLD NEPHEW NEXT TO US, SO I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THE STORIES TOLD WERE A BUNCH OF MYTHS AND EXAGGERATIONS AND THAT YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY **DIE** OUT HERE--

--WHICH WILL FORCE US TO **TEAR DOWN** YOUR STATUE AND REBUILD ONE OF MY 3-DAY-OLD NEPHEW AS THE NEW MIGHTIEST OF THEM ALL.



BRUTAL, PLEASE! HE'S OUR GUEST! LET'S GIVE HIM A CHANCE BEFORE WE PLACE JUDGMENTS UPON HIM. HE IS MIGHTY--MANY OF US SAW IT IN THE GREAT DOWNLOAD.*

WE SAW HIS PAST. WE SAW THE FOES HE HAS FACED. HULK HAS LIVED A LIFE NONE OF US HAVE LIVED, HE HAS HAD EXPERIENCES NONE OF US HAVE EXPERIENCED. WE WILL LEARN MUCH FROM HIM TODAY.

*LAST ISSUE. --WIL



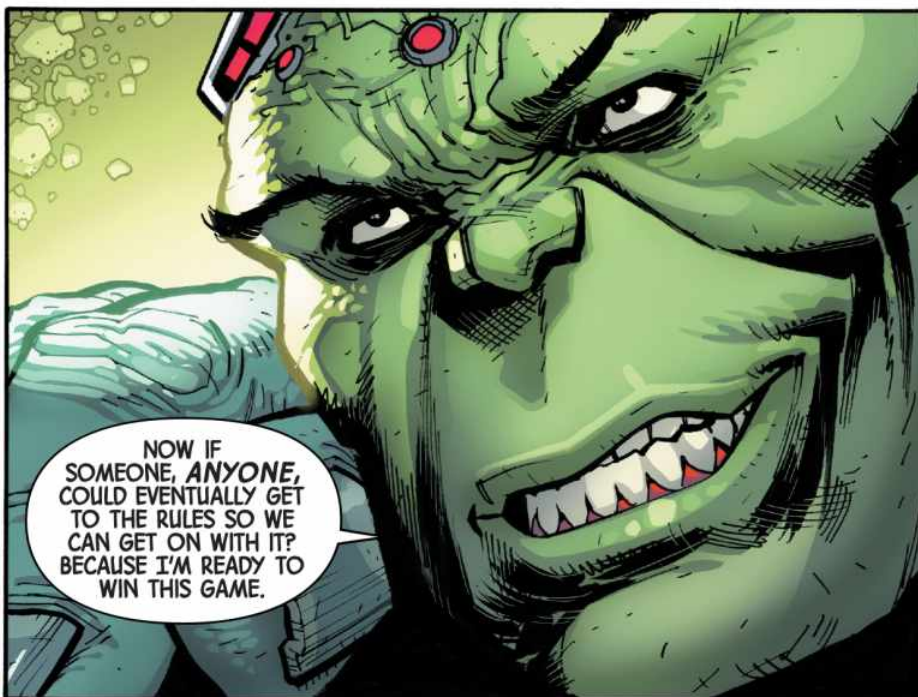
→SIGH← WHY DID I SAY YES TO THIS? IF I ACCIDENTALLY **KILL THEM**, I'LL BE BANISHED. IF I GO **EASY ON THEM**, THEY'LL THINK I'M WEAK AND WALK ALL OVER ME.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE TO THEM, SIR. YOU WANTED TO FIND A PLACE OF REFUGE--WE MIGHT HAVE FOUND IT. PLAY THE GAME. HAVE FUN. IT'S LIKE MONOLITH SAID--YOU CAN'T HURT ANYONE HERE.



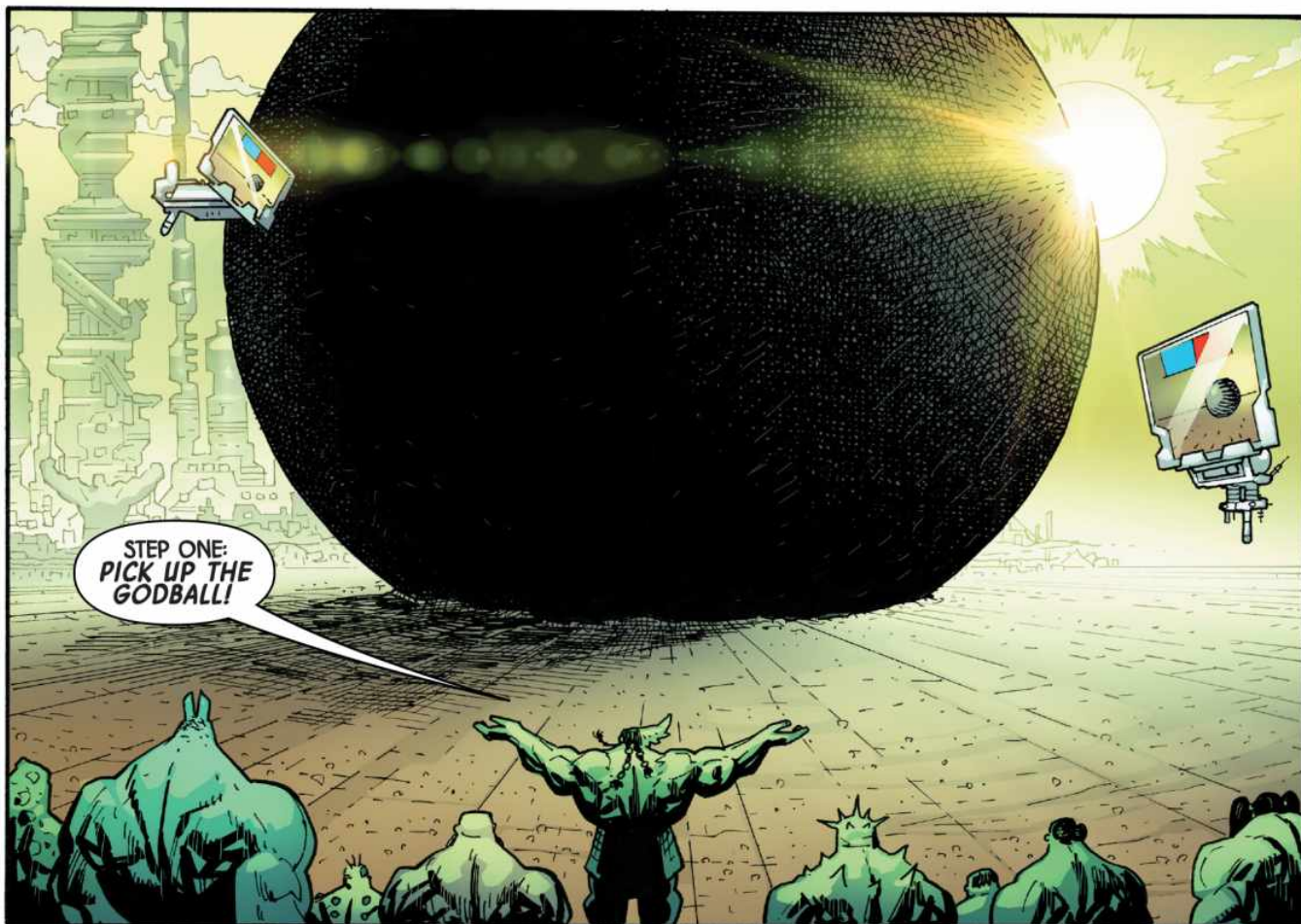
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE ALSO **ME**, WHICH MEANS I'M RIGHT. I GUESS I'LL--

IS HE EVEN LISTENING?!





THE RULES ARE SO
SIMPLE EVEN A *GREY*
COULD UNDERSTAND.



STEP ONE:
PICK UP THE
GODBALL!



MONOLITH, I'M SORRY
TO INTERRUPT THE
GODBALL FESTIVITIES FOR
THIS, BUT...



...WELL, THE RECENT
FINDINGS ON HULK'S BRAIN SCAN
HAVE ME WORRIED THAT GODBALL
MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST THING FOR
HIM TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW...



I ACQUIRED
MORE DOWNLOADED
KNOWLEDGE FROM
THE GAMMA ERUPTION
THAN ANYONE--I KNOW
WHAT HULK CAN HANDLE.
THIS WILL BE A GAME OF
PEACE. LET'S SIT
BACK AND WATCH.

BUT FIRST,
DO BRING ME
A GOBLET OF
STICKWORM
JUICE. I
THIRST.



STEP TWO:
THROW THE
GODBALL AT
THE RING OF
ROCKS!



DOESN'T
SEEM SO
BAD.



ARE YOU A
GREY HIDING
UNDER A LAYER OF
GREEN PAINT? LET
ME FINISH!



WE ARE DOWN
TO OUR VERY LAST
GODBALL. PAVE BROKE
THE LAST TWO. HE GETS
RATHER *EXCITED*
AT TIMES.

YES...BUT DON'T
FRET, THIS ONE IS THE
STRONGEST OF ALL. A GODBALL
IS THE CORE OF A NEARBY PLANET
OR MOON. WE DESTROY THE PLANET,
TAKE THE CORE, AND CONDENSE IT
EVEN MORE WITH OUR FISTS WHILE THE
CORE COOLS, WHICH SHRINKS AND
HARDENS THE BALL, MAKING
IT UNBREAKABLE.

BUT
UNFORTUNATELY,
WE ARE FRESH OUT
OF NEARBY PLANETS.
SO *BE CAREFUL* WITH
THIS ONE, PAVE.
OPEN-HAND
HITS ONLY.



YOU
DESTROY
PLANETS?!



UNINHABITED
PLANETS. WE AREN'T
MONSTERS.

"TEAM RED CIRCLES THE BALL AND IS FIRST UP FOR OFFENSIVE PLAY. TEAM BLUE POSITIONS IN A WIDER CIRCLE AROUND TEAM RED FOR DEFENSIVE PLAY..."



"TEAM BLUE ALSO HAS ONE ROCK DEFENDER ON THE BELT. THEY HAVE KUSS UP THERE RIGHT NOW--HE NEEDS SOME ALONE TIME UNTIL HE LEARNS TO STOP DISMEMBERING."



"EACH ROCK HIT COUNTS AS A POINT. WHICHEVER TEAM HAS THE MOST POINTS WHEN THE GREY BEASTS HOWL WINS."



"HULK, YOU TAKE THE LEAD SINCE YOU'RE THE NEWBIE. GOOD LUCK. THE WORLD IS WATCHING!"



WE WON'T BE NEEDING THE MAIN SUIT FOR THIS GAME, BUT I'D ALSO LIKE TO GIVE OUR HULK IN THE ENGINE ROOM A MUCH-NEEDED BREAK. THOUGHTS FROM THE BRIDGE?



PRETTY SURE WE CAN HANDLE THIS WITHOUT LEVELING UP THE STAGES AND CAUSING STRESS TO THE ENGINE ROOM.



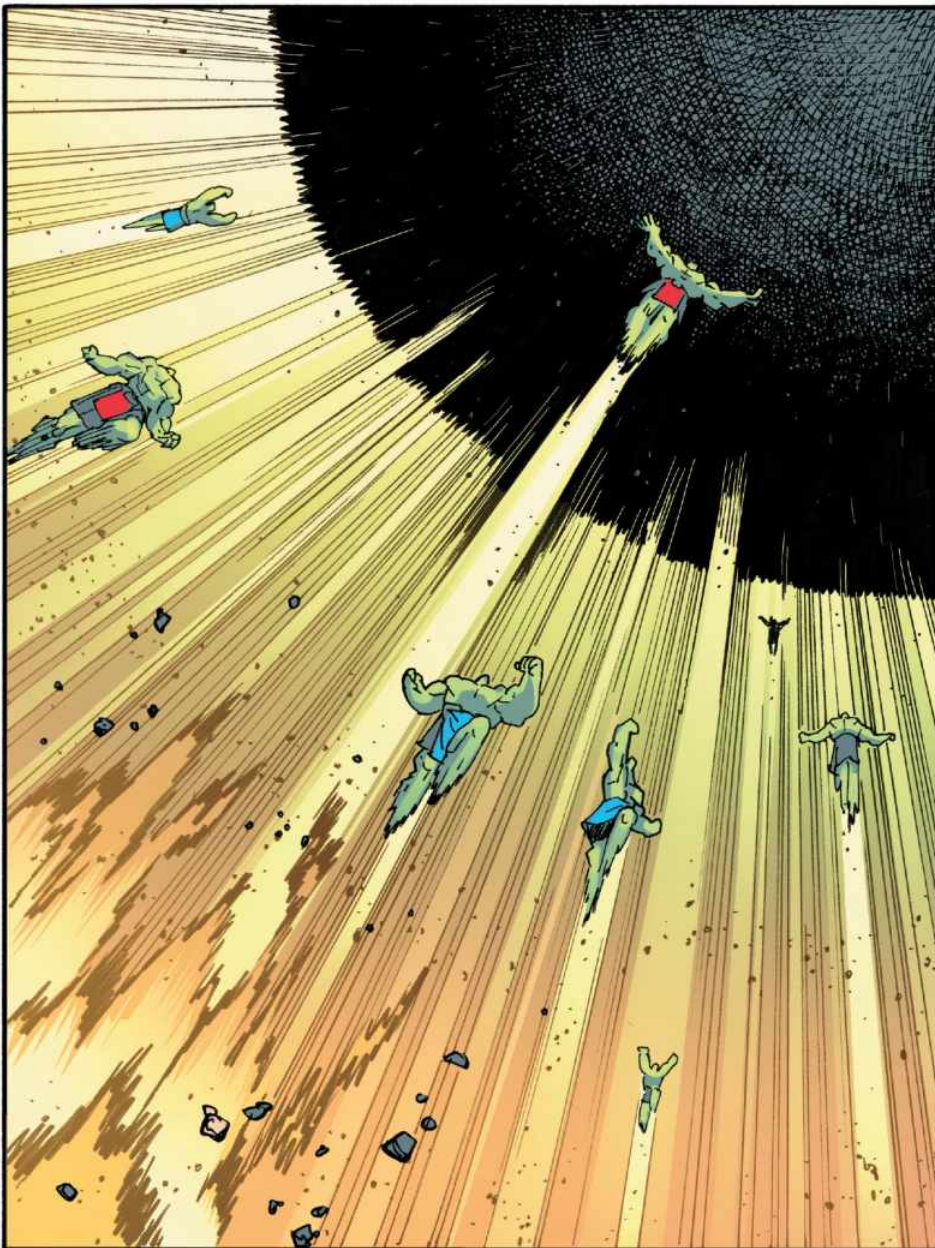
YES. THAT LAST BOUT OF LEVELING HAS RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO KEEP OURSELVES MENTALLY STABLE DURING SUCH STRESS TO OUR COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS.

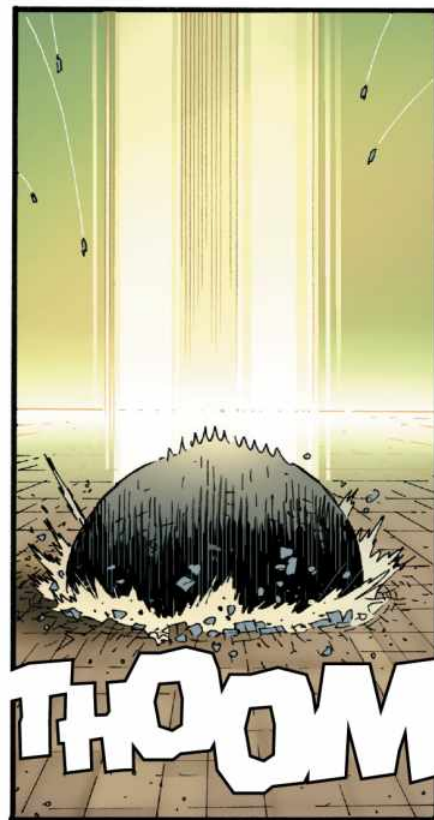


YEAH. THAT GOT OUT OF HAND.



SO WE AGREE--LET'S JUST PLAY SOME BALL AND RELAX!

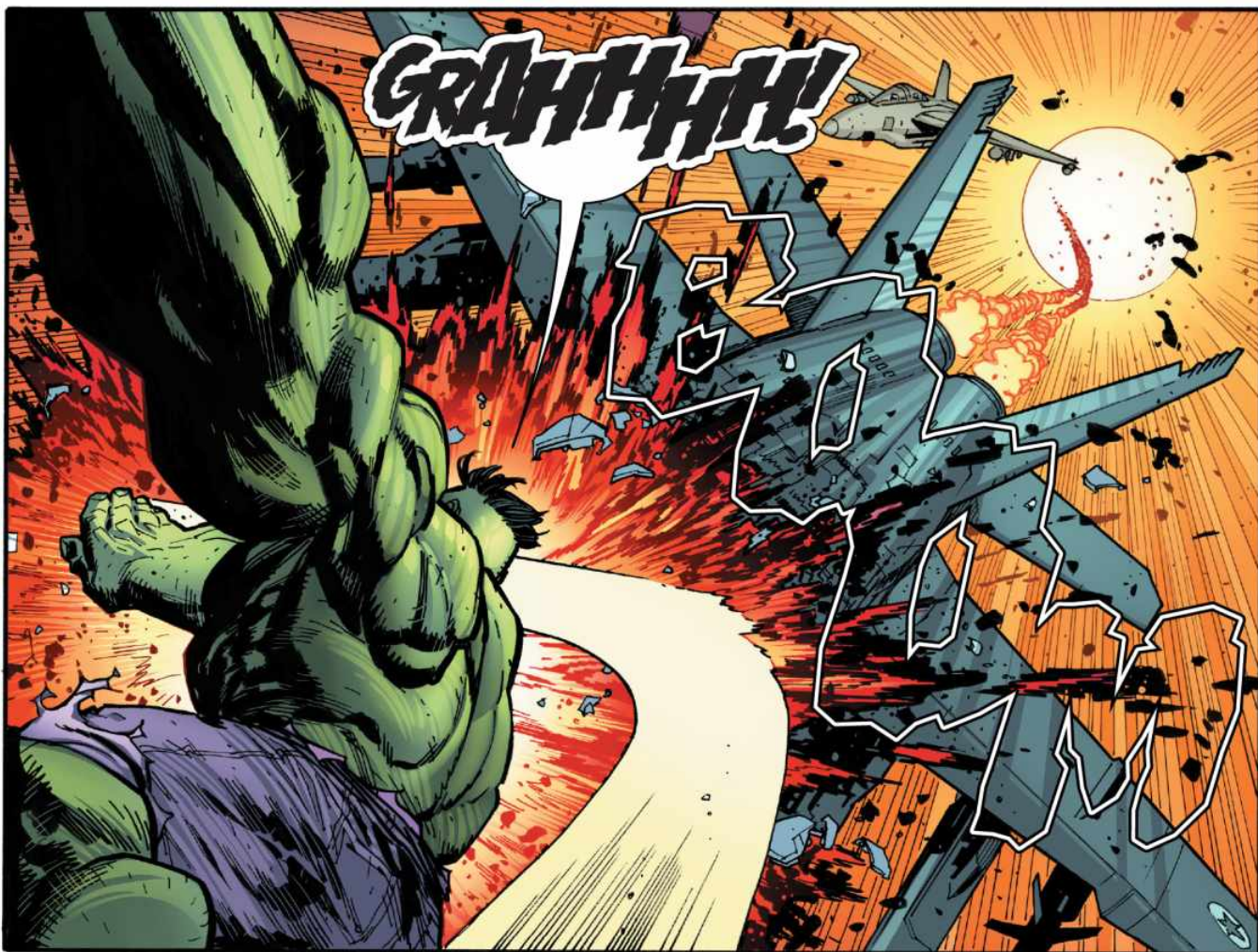


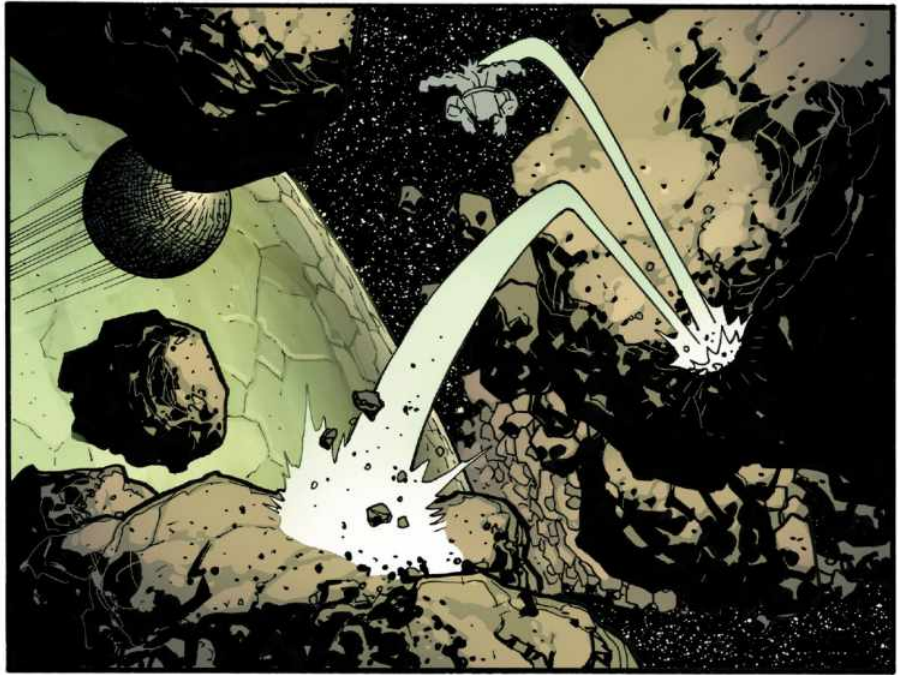




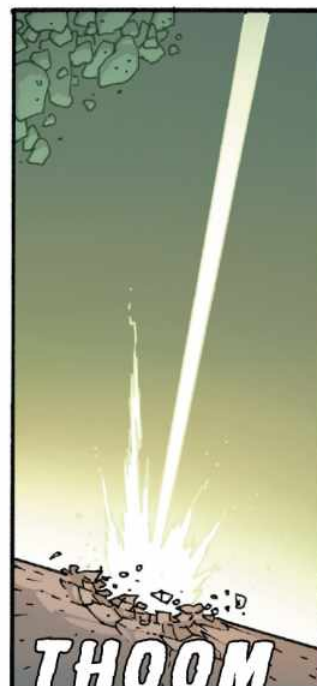
STAGE ONE







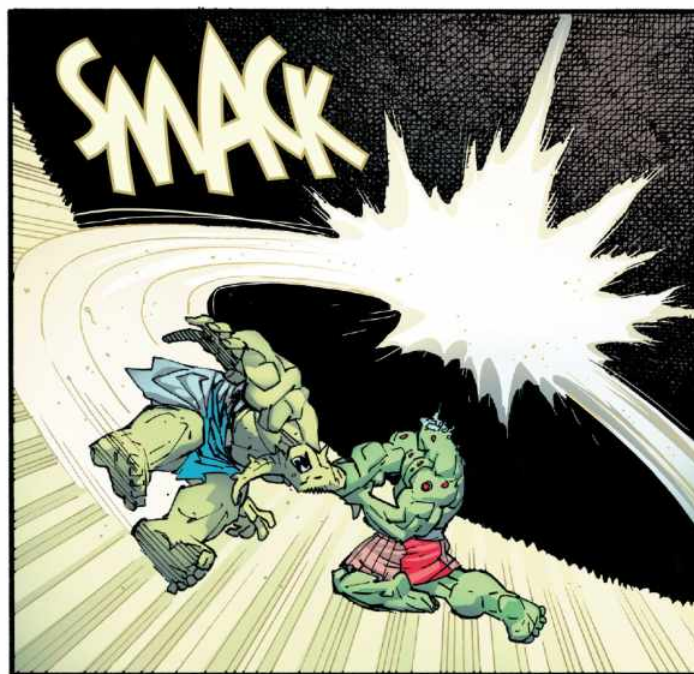






STAGE TWO









A PORTAL, IT'S OPENING THERE, RIGHT NEXT TO THE GAME!

GET EVERYONE OUT OF THERE-- NOW!

YOU!!!

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KILL THE PROTECTORS OF THE ARTERIAL DIMENSIONAL BETWEEN-SPACE AND GET AWAY WITH IT?!*

IF A TEAM GETS ERADICATED, ANOTHER TEAM IN ANOTHER DIMENSION THEN BECOMES THE **NEW** PROTECTORS. WE ARE THAT SLAIN TEAM'S DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS WHO HAVE TAKEN UP THEIR MANTLE, AND WE HAVE SWORN TO AVENGE THEM!

*ISSUE #2. --WIL



IT TOOK US A WHILE TO FIND YOU, BUT NOW ALL OF OUR OTHER DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS IN CASE YOU SOMEHOW DEFEAT US AGAIN!



I...I AM LOST. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

HE IS INNOCENT! TOUCH HIM, YOU DIE!



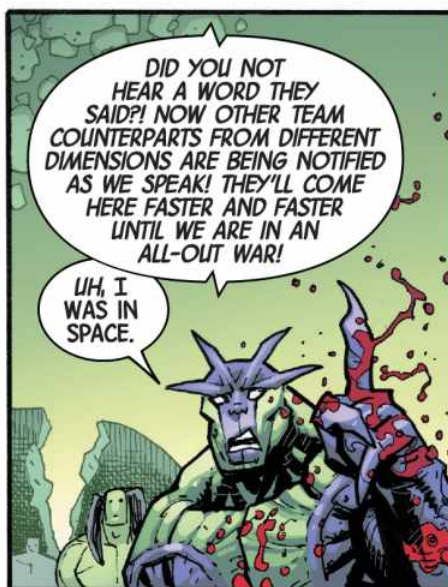
THERE WAS FOOTAGE RECORDED IN HULK'S HELMET WHILE HE WAS IN THE BETWEEN-SPACE-- SEARCH IT NOW. WE MUST ACT QUICKLY!



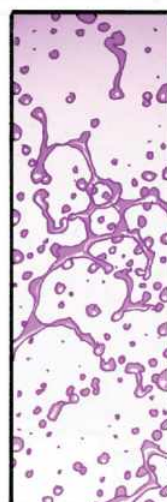
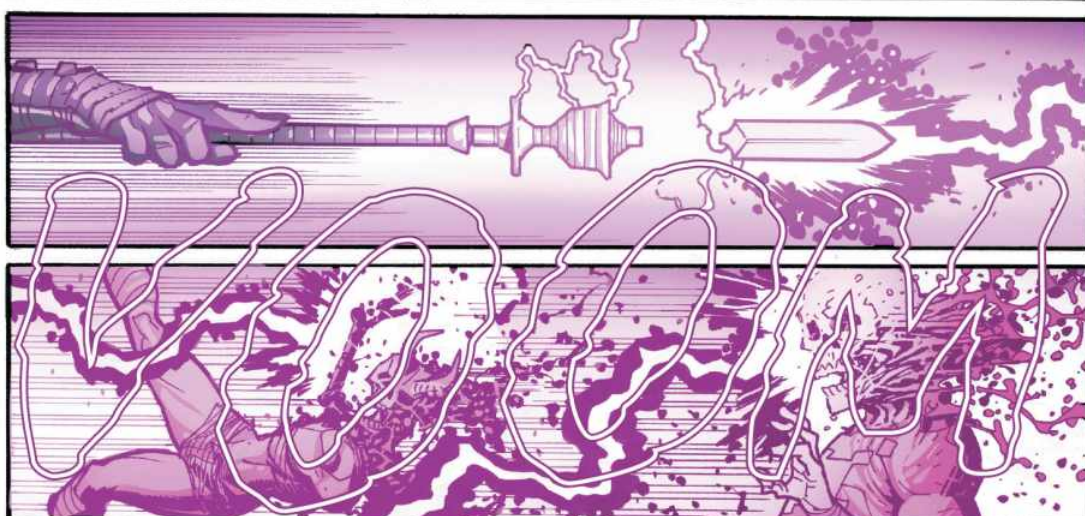
LADY DEMONESS, SEND THEM FAR AWAY FROM HERE, WHERE THEY CANNOT HURT ANOTHER LIVING SOUL FOR AS LONG AS THEY LIVE.

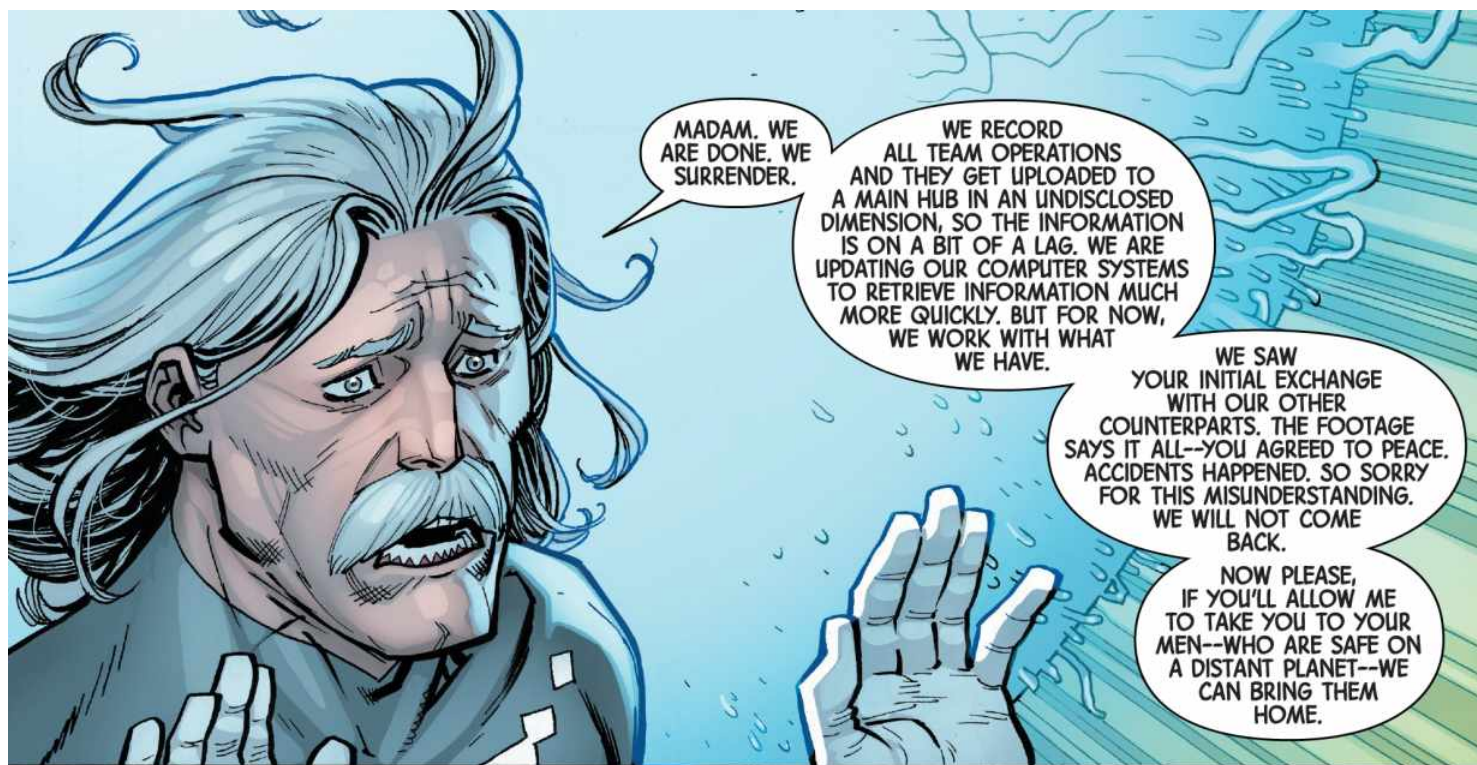












MADAM. WE ARE DONE. WE SURRENDER.

WE RECORD ALL TEAM OPERATIONS AND THEY GET UPLOADED TO A MAIN HUB IN AN UNDISCLOSED DIMENSION, SO THE INFORMATION IS ON A BIT OF A LAG. WE ARE UPDATING OUR COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO RETRIEVE INFORMATION MUCH MORE QUICKLY. BUT FOR NOW, WE WORK WITH WHAT WE HAVE.

WE SAW YOUR INITIAL EXCHANGE WITH OUR OTHER COUNTERPARTS. THE FOOTAGE SAYS IT ALL--YOU AGREED TO PEACE. ACCIDENTS HAPPENED. SO SORRY FOR THIS MISUNDERSTANDING. WE WILL NOT COME BACK.

NOW PLEASE, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME TO TAKE YOU TO YOUR MEN--WHO ARE SAFE ON A DISTANT PLANET--WE CAN BRING THEM HOME.



VERY WELL.

A SUGGESTION: PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE TO ALL YOUR OTHER DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS THAT IF THEY SEE A LARGE GREEN MAN FLYING THROUGH YOUR PRECIOUS "ARTERIAL DIMENSIONAL BETWEEN-SPACE"... THEY SHOULD MOVE.

YES, MA'AM. NOTED.



WHAT?!



THE PLANET...IT'S GONE!



YES...



...BUT THE CORE REMAINS.



GROUND CONTROL TO STARSHIP HULK

Okay, Smashtronauts, we expect to see some amateur Godball matches at comic conventions this spring, so you better start practicing! And make sure to let us know what you all thought of this issue, Ryan Ottley's first as both artist AND writer! Ryan and Donny are co-writing next issue, and then Ryan's going to write (and draw!) the rest of "Hulk Planet" himself! Buckle up, Hulk heads, because the next few issues are going to be WILD! Now, on to your letters!

Hey, everyone,

Great job on the comic so far! This is the second HULK comic that I've followed religiously, after IMMORTAL HULK. I wasn't sure how anyone could follow up on that tremendous run, but Donny and Ryan have been doing tremendously! Donny Cates' writing has been full of twists and turns, with one mind-blowing revelation after another. And Ryan Ottley's art is always amazing! It gives a very vibrant feel to each panel and gets you totally engrossed in the wonderful story!

The introduction of another Bruce Banner and the world of Earth-122 is keeping me on the edge of my seat waiting for the next issue. Keep up the great work and you'll have an INCREDIBLE new HULK run on your hands!

Ethan Toler

Donny Cates and Ryan Ottley have been doing some interesting work with the Hulk.

Contrary to what some think, Cates didn't ignore the concepts of IMMORTAL HULK, he wanted to

explore them in his own way. I saw several elements of Peter David and Bill Mantlo in this run, such as in the flashbacks we hadn't seen before and how Banner's psyche continues to be explored--as it should! Titan is not just a new personality that has arrived... Cates shows that he is much more than a simple first one in HULK #6. May the run continue like this!

Rodrigo Fonseca Ojeda

Hello, Starship Hulk!

First off, I want to say that ever since HULK began back in November of last year, it has been an absolute BLAST to read. Donny Cates has quickly cemented himself for me as one of my all-time favorite writers, and pairing him with Ryan Ottley of *Invincible* and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN fame is the definition of a dream team. The series revolving around Bruce piloting the Hulk's body as a starship is a very fun and creative idea, and I can't wait to see where this book goes next. Especially with Godball coming up soon!

Thanks from a Hulked-Out fan for life.

Owen Seyler

Dear Cates, Ottley and other people involved in the making of this comic,

I must say that I'm impressed with your version of Hulk. Like many Hulk fans, I loved IMMORTAL HULK and was curious about how the next run would continue the amazing story, and I would say you have done a great job.

It's totally different from what I

was expecting, which is perfect--it would be underwhelming if it was just a retelling of the previous plot. The whole concept of Starship Hulk and Tony Stark using a Celestial body as armor reminded me a lot of classic mecha anime, a genre that I love. And seeing a universe where Bruce Banner was actually successful in his experiment was interesting. I especially liked the giant Spider-Man and the abominations with the face of Hulk.

And the HULK vs. THOR crossover is pure chaotic fun--Hulk becoming Thor was something that surprised me in the best way possible. I don't know how do you manage to come up with these crazy ideas, but they really keep the story entertaining!

Sincerely,

Francisco Rivero

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AND MARK YOUR LETTER

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ORDER!**



ISSUE #12

